

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
USSN 09/816,465

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 remain in the application, claim 9 having been editorially amended.

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 1-8, but respectfully requests reconsideration of the application and allowance of all claims in view of the following remarks.

The Abstract has been amended to conform to USPTO guidelines.

Claim 9 has been editorially amended to correct the antecedent basis problem noted by the examiner.

The rejection of claim 9 for anticipation by Dickman and Boyle is respectfully traversed.

The present invention is directed to an improved service call management system. In the system as generally illustrated in Fig. 1, service calls C are supplied to a master module M which sends information I relating to each call to a set E of access control modules A₁ to A_n. The access control modules make decisions concerning the received calls, sometimes a conclusive decision (e.g., accept the call because it is on a priority call list, or reject the call because it is on a reject list) in which case no other modules need be consulted, and sometimes the decision is not conclusive (e.g., the caller is not in a proscribed geographical area and therefore need not be rejected for geographical reasons). Sometimes the access control module decisions are chained, sometimes performed simultaneously, and in the latter case it may be that the master module considers the access control module decisions in a defined priority order which effectively chains them. In addition to access control modules, the invention also allows for the master module to make use of a plurality of call processing modules, e.g., R₁ to R_n in Fig. 4.

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The aspect of the invention to which claim 9 relates is the addition of new access control or call processing modules to the system, described at pages 8-9 and in the paragraph at the bottom of page 10 of the specification. According to the invention, the master module (e.g., M in Figs. 1 or 4), receives a request to add a new access control module and to include the new module in the set of access control modules with which the master module M is associated. Thus, for example, a user could cause a request to be sent to the master module requesting the addition of an access control module that would filter out all calls from a particular nuisance caller.

Dickman describes the generation of service nodes that can be logically assembled into call processing records which are stored in a service definition library 19. But this is not the implementation of the various services, but rather the building up of a library of services that can be deployed. The present invention is not directed to this, but rather to an easy mechanism by which a new service can actually be deployed. The paragraph bridging columns 4-5 of the specification explains that new services can actually be implemented by the service control point 17 exchanging network control messages with the switched telephone network 18, then gives no details on how this is done. There is no discussion of a master module associated with plural access control or call processing modules, and the sending to the master module of a request to add a new service and the master module responding to that request by adding the new service to the modules with which it is associated.

Boyle describes an arrangement for facilitating the addition of and removal of features. For example, lines 31-39 of column 9 describe that each feature comprises a feature manager 300, 350 which acts as a server, and an administration agent acting as a client on each endpoint

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101, 102 that is entitled to use the feature. But, again, there is no discussion of a master module that will be associated with a plurality of calling features and which receives a request to add a feature and responds to that request by adding the feature to the set of features with which it is associated.

In sum, while the cited art does describe generally the addition of new features to a system, Dickman does not at all describe how and Boyle describes how but not apparently in the context of a system having a master module associated with plural access control or call processing modules, as is the case in the present invention. Accordingly, it is believed that claim 9 as now clarified defines subject matter neither shown nor suggested in the cited art.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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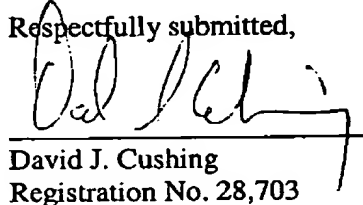
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Respectfully submitted,



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